



Community Appearance Commission

Minutes October 7, 2009

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, October 7, 2009, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chambers, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Connie Baker, Suzanne Casey, Greta Connor, Diane Gibbs, Sue McHugh, Sean Meyers, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit and Tom Wolpert

Absent: Barbara Lawther

Staff: Lynn Raker and Diana Moghrabi

The minutes of the September 2, 2009, meeting were approved as submitted. The regular CAC account (553112) has spent \$247.59 since July 1, 2009.

The CAC received a letter of gratitude from Emily Perry of the Dixonville Committee regarding appreciation for a CAC financial gift, CAC assistance in securing a financial gift from Civitan and overall CAC support for the Dixonville Cemetery repairs and marker.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Chris Branham, Code Services Manager, made a presentation outlining what the division does. This presentation has been offered to neighborhood organizations upon request. Their mission is to enforce the city code to improve the quality of life in our community. They assure that the community is visually appealing, clean and safe.

The Code Services team of three officers covers three zones of the City. They enforce the nuisance code (Chapter 14 of the City Code), portions of the zoning code and minimum housing code. They work/coordinate with Development Services. Chris has asked police and fire to take photos of "after five o'clock" recurring problems.

Examples of the zoning process:

- First a \$50 citation
- If not remedied there will be a \$100 citation
- If continued there is a \$250 dollar fine per day until corrected

Under the nuisance process:

- Untagged or abandoned cars—the car would be towed after 14 days

Two-way communication is very important. Chris is focusing on educating the public on the code. They issue citations. Neighborhoods are expressing their appreciation for the department's efforts. They try to keep calls confidential.

It took about three days to clean up the area at Liberty and Long Streets. There were about ten garbage cans full of trash. This resulted from police issues, pedestrian traffic, etc.

- Tom Wolpert requested that the department address the 12-14 cars in a yard on Council Street across from the EMS station.
- Sue McHugh asked that a front yard converted to a parking lot be investigated. She will provide addresses.

Bill Safrit said that he has noticed an improvement in the City since the Code Services Division has been active.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

Greta Connor reported that the committee met just prior to today's regular meeting.

- The Neighborhood Leaders Alliance meeting is scheduled for October 29 at One Water Street at 4 p.m. The committee (Sean Meyers, Bill Safrit, Sara Robinson, Greta Connor, and Lynn Raker) met September 29 at noon to draft the agenda for the NLA meeting.

Staff provided information about housing commissions in other cities. The CAC would support Salisbury's City Council forming its own housing commission. Landlords would need to have some form of training and certificates of occupancy would be issued for rental units. Policies and procedures would need to be created. Representation on the board would be a cross-section of neighborhoods, race, gender and financial status.

- At the September CAC meeting Greta Connor raised the problems on Long Street that make a poor appearance, create an unsightly gateway into Salisbury, and increase crime. The problems reach over Eleventh Street to Fifteenth and Church Streets.

Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson and Greta Connor met with Joe Morris today at 3 p.m. to address the above issues. Joe made both short-term and long-term suggestions that the City may be able to implement such as having the streets swept. The parking near the shelter (The shelter creates some issues on its own.) can be cleaned up, limbs can be trimmed, and undesirable activities can be addressed. The Code Services Team has cleared some property already.

Joe Morris and Chris Branham plan to attend the November 4 CAC meeting.

Tom Wolpert asked if Long Street could be improved with landscaping. Lynn Raker said there is a planning approach for that—CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design). <http://www.cpted.net/> Presently, staff does not have the opportunity to take it on as a project.

Art in Public Places

- Barbara Perry updated the Commission on the activities of the Salisbury Public Art Committee. They are preparing for the next outdoor sculpture show. They now have funding for the next show. A sculpture from this show has been sold; twenty-five percent of the sale goes to the Public Art Committee.
- The Cotton Mills Corner pocket park is nearly completed. There was a nice article in the *Salisbury Post*. Sean Meyers provided photos of the project. Southeast Middle School football team assisted in planting and received credit for community service. This also met a grant requirement to include young people in the project. Lynn Raker had very positive feedback from the community about the installation. The dedication is tentatively set for November 21.
- The Sparks Circus History & Art Trail marker will be installed and a dedication will take place at the Yadkin Hotel at 4 p.m. Friday, October 9. There will be circus snacks and calliope music—a very festive atmosphere.
- The planters at the new Central City parking lot will double as bases for art. (Tom Wolpert thought tobacco would look good planted there.)
- There is a CAC committee call Art in Public Places that represents the CAC on the Public Art Committee. (They also spearheaded the Robert Crum mosaic installation “Smoke and Steel.”) Lynn Raker suggested this committee is duplicated by the Public Art Committee. It was determined that members of the original Art in Public Places Committee will serve on the Public Art Committee. That includes Connie Baker, Sara Robinson, Barbara Lawther, and Barbara Perry. The Public Art Committee meets the second Thursday of the month at Downtown Salisbury, Inc. at 8:30 a.m.

Landscape of the Month

The LOM committee meets just before the regular CAC meetings. The October winner of the residential Landscape of the Month award was 408 S. Fulton St. and the commercial winner is Autumn Care.

This program will rest until the spring.

Grants

Bill Safrit and Lynn Raker reported that a number of applications pending are adjacent to the Central City Parking lot behind Bernhardt's Hardware. Lynn Raker was authorized to make a judgment for distribution in this area and will report back in order to expedite the process.

Awards

The CAC/Tree Board awards luncheon will take place February 18, 2010, at the Rowan Museum in the Messinger Room from 12 until 1:30 p.m. The theme is "neighborhoods." The Buttercup Café will be the caterer. No current updates.

NEW BUSINESS

Sean Meyers and Sue McHugh will serve on the HPC Grants Committee. The next meeting will be October 16 at noon. Janet Gapen is the liaison.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Fall Spruce Up is October 19–23. (Call 704-638-5260 for special pickup.)
- Tom Wolpert was asked to bring forward a proposal for ways the Salisbury CAC can acknowledge good things that happen in neighborhoods.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting will be November 4, 2009.